

Fact Sheet



Abbott Laboratories Facility

Wichita, Kansas

June 2001

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 has proposed a remedy to address ground water contamination at the closed Abbott Laboratories (Abbott) facility in Wichita, Kansas. The proposed remedy is to conduct long-term monitoring of the ground water with a network of wells. This process, also known as monitored natural attenuation, uses natural processes-such as chemical and biological degradation and dilution- to achieve cleanup goals.

What Happened?

From 1960 to 1985, Abbott operated a facility at 6765 South Ridge Road in Wichita, Kansas. The original facility was built to produce cyclohexylamine, a compound used in making artificial sweetener. Later, the facility also made products used in textiles, rubber, plastics, adhesives, and pharmaceuticals. The facility consisted of operational waste handling, storage, and disposal area(s).

Abbott sold the operational area to Air Products and Chemicals Manufacturing Corp., but Abbott owns the four solid waste management units (SWMUs)- - underground injection control (UIC) well, solid waste evaporation pond, solid waste evaporation lagoon, and former drum storage pad. The four SWMUs were used to handle, store, or dispose wastes.

Ground water contamination was discovered. The contaminants include acrylonitrile, aniline, pyridine, and o-toluidine. Abbott developed a system, still in operation, to extract contaminated ground water and put it in the UIC well. The UIC well was built to dispose production waste water, leachate from the solid waste evaporation lagoon, and contaminated ground water from the ground water extraction system.

Public Involvement Opportunities

EPA will hold a public availability session Thursday, June 28, 2001, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Haysville Community Library, 130 W. Grand Ave., Haysville, Kansas. The public is invited to attend at its convenience between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Representatives from EPA, KDHE, and Abbott will be available to answer questions one-on-one about the ground water sampling results, proposed solution, and next steps.

What other solutions were considered?

- No further action
This includes termination of the ground water extraction well system, as well as the ground water monitoring activities.
- Ground water Extraction, Treatment, and Discharge
This includes the continued operation and maintenance of the ground water extraction well and monitoring system.

What are the next steps?

- Hold a public availability session
The public is invited to attend a public availability session at the Haysville Community Library Thursday, June 28, 2001, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00p.m. The purpose of the session is to answer questions about the ground water sampling results, proposed solution, and next steps.
- Hold a public comment period on the final proposed remedy and implement the remedy.

For more information

If you have questions about this fact sheet or would like additional information, please contact:

EPA Region 7
901 N. Fifth Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
Contacts: Shawntell Crossgrow, Community Involvement Coordinator
Bill Lowe, Project Manager
Toll-free: 1(800) 223-0425
(913) 551-7003

KDHE
Forbes Field, Building 740
Topeka, KS 66620-0001
Contact: Mostafa Kamal, Project Manager
(785) 296-1609

